

Application No. 10/652,626
Amendment dated December 23, 2005
Reply to Office action of September 28, 2005

Page 11 of 13

Amendments to the Drawings

Formal drawings are attached as replacement sheets. These sheets, which include Figs. 1-7, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1-7.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

Application No. 10/652,626
Amendment dated December 23, 2005
Reply to Office action of September 28, 2005

Page 12 of 13

Remarks

Claims 1-47 were pending in the application. Claims 1-8, 10-31, and 39-47 were rejected. Claims 9 and 32-38 were objected to. Claims 1, 5-7, 18, and 27 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 2-4, 8-17, 19, 28-30, 32, 39, and 45 are amended. Claims 2-4, 8-17, 19-26, and 28-47 are now pending in the application. Claims 9 and 32 are the independent claims. Reconsideration of the amended application is respectfully requested.

The examiner objected to the drawings as failing to show detail of the flanges of the base as described in the specification. Formal drawings are submitted herewith that more clearly show the detail noted by the examiner. The objection, therefore, should be withdrawn.

The examiner rejected claims 1-5, 10-12, 16, 18-24, 27-31, 39, 45, and 46 as being anticipated by Dubbink et al. The examiner also rejected claims 1, 3-8, 10-12, 16-31, and 39-42 as being anticipated by Kowalczyk. The examiner also rejected claims 2, 13, 14, 15, 43, 44, 45, and 47 as being unpatentable over various combinations of references. The examiner also objected to claim 9 and 32-38 as depending from a rejected base claim, but acknowledged that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 9 is amended to explicitly include all of the features of base claim 1 and intervening claims 5-7, which are canceled. Claims 2-4, 8, and 10-17 are amended to

Application No. 10/652,626
Amendment dated December 23, 2005
Reply to Office action of September 28, 2005

Page 13 of 13

depend from independent claim 9. The rejection of claims 2-4 and 8-17, therefore, should be withdrawn.

Claim 32 is amended to explicitly recite all of the features of base claim 18 and intervening claim 27. Claims 33-38 depend from claim 32. Claim 19 is amended to depend from independent claim 32. Claims 20-26 depend from claim 19. Claims 28-30 are amended to depend from independent claim 32. Claim 31 depends from claim 30. Claim 39 is amended to depend from independent claim 32. Claims 40-44 depend from claim 39. Claim 45 is amended to depend from independent claim 32. Claims 46 and 47 depend from claim 45. The rejection of claims 19-26 and 28-47, therefore, should be withdrawn.

Based on the foregoing, it is submitted that all objections and rejections have been overcome. It is therefore requested that the Amendment be entered, the claims allowed, and the case passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas M. Champagne
Registration No. 36,478
Customer Number 49691
(828) 253-8600

December 23, 2005
Date

TMC:hlp